



Proclaim and Learn to Praise !

Then everyone will stand in awe, proclaiming the mighty acts of God, realizing all the amazing things he does. The godly will rejoice in the LORD and find shelter in him. And those who do what is right will praise him. (Psalm 64:9-10 NLT)

We all need to learn to give praise to the Lord. Praise to God, otherwise known as doxology springs from a joyful heart that has found peace in knowing and obeying the Lord. As we continue to seek the Lord in prayer, let's draw from the certainties and richness of his promises to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel. His message brings hope and peace to those who respond through repentance and prayer. Joy comes to those who abide in him and obey (John 15:10-11). In giving praise we need to learn that not only has Christ loved us and given his life for us, but he has overcome death and sin. He will fulfill his promises for he is faithful.

Mary's song of praise, also known as the Magnificat is a supreme example of giving praise for God's faithfulness. She understands what it means to belong to God. She expresses in prayerful praise God's mighty acts and the fulfillment of his promises to his people. "He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy (Luke 1:54 NKJV)." What better way to proclaim God's mighty acts than in a hymn of praise. It is always time to give praise and even more as we anticipate his coming . . . again. Time is fleeting and we need to learn to praise God with our whole selves. The second stanza of Madeleine L'Engle's poem from *The Irrational Season* sheds light on the momentary nature of time.

*Foolish clocks, all time was broken
When that first great Word was spoken.
Cease we now this silly fleeing
From earth's time, for time's a being
And adoring
Bows before him
Who upon the throne is seated.
Time, defeated, wins, is greeted.*

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What does giving praise do for us? We adore, honor and give tribute to God who has created all things and brought all things to himself through Christ. As our mouths utter these truths, we are changed by the message of hope. We wait, yet share our joyful message with those in need to hear – the whole world!